

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of establishing and managing a vendor inventory of specific emergency business supplies guaranteed available for ~~[[a]]~~ an identified company, comprising:

receiving compensation for costs of maintaining the inventory guaranteed available for the identified company;

releasing a plurality of the business supplies from the availability guarantee for sale, after the plurality of the business supplies have been in the vendor inventory for a period of time expiring when a release condition occurs; and

restocking the vendor inventory.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sale is at a discount and further comprising:

receiving compensation from the company relating to the discount sale.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein if the company provides an assertion to the vendor that the release condition has occurred or will have occurred at a specific time, then the vendor will have only a first period of time to object to that assertion, unless the company extends the first period.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the release condition is that improved business supplies become available for insertion into the vendor inventory.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the release condition is that the plurality of the business supplies have reached a particular age or percentage of shelf life ~~or state~~.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the discount sale is to the company.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the business supplies in the vendor inventory are owned by the vendor for at least a first period of time that the business supplies are in vendor inventory and owned by the company instead of the vendor for at least a second subsequent period of time that the business supplies are in vendor inventory.

8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the company sells at least some of the business supplies to a third party after the discount sale.

9. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the receipt of compensation for the inventory costs, and the receipt of compensation for the discount sale are performed substantially simultaneously with the discount sale.

10. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of providing at least a portion of the business supplies to the company routinely as needed by the company, prior to releasing the business supplies for the discount sale.

11. (currently amended) A system for establishing and managing an inventory of specific emergency business supplies guaranteed available for ~~[[a]]~~ an identified, comprising:

a system for obtaining a release condition indication;

a system for receiving allocation instructions and compensation from the company for maintaining the inventory of emergency business supplies as guaranteed available for the identified company; and

a vendor inventory system that maintains the inventory of emergency business supplies, wherein the inventory of emergency business supplies is allocated to the company in response to receiving the allocation instructions and the compensation from the company; and

wherein the vendor inventory system at least partially releases the allocated inventory for sale after the release indication is obtained.

12. (original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a sales system for selling the released inventory at a discount, wherein,

the inventory of emergency business supplies is restocked after the discount sale.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the release condition is obtained when at least part of the business supplies have reached at least one of a particular age, a particular time in inventory, or a percentage of shelf life ~~or a particular state~~.

14. (original) The system of claim 11, wherein the release condition is obtained when improved business supplies become available for insertion into the vendor inventory.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the business supplies in the vendor inventory are owned by the vendor for at least a first period of time that the business supplies are in vendor inventory and owned by the company instead of the vendor, at least temporarily at a time subsequent to the first period.

16. (original) The system of claim 11, wherein if the company provides an assertion to the vendor that the release condition has occurred or will have occurred at a specific time, then the vendor will have a first period to object to that assertion.

17. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein,
the discount sale is to the company.

18. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the sales system processes a second sale of the released inventory to a third party after the discount sale.

19. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the company may extend the first period.